

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

*Fewer Children Better Born*

## The Unwanted Child Comes Before the Court

*By MIRIAM VAN WATERS*

## *The Truth About France*

*By G HARDY*

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November, 1925

Twenty Cents

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# The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

Four Steps to Our Goal — Agitation, Education, Organization, Legislation

MARGARET SANGER, Editor

MARY SUMNER BOYD, Managing Editor

VOL. IX

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## EDITORIALS

THE daily papers this month have given widespread publicity to the report of a committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church, convening in New Orleans which condemns the theory and practice of Birth Control as "hostile to the family." The committee presenting this report was composed of six bishops, two clergymen and a lay delegate. While the account published by the daily press is fragmentary and no adequate answer is possible until the full report is at hand, there is evident a painful lack of clear, constructive or courageous thinking. The attitude of this committee is a familiar one—glib condemnation of contraception, and an equally thoughtless insistence upon "the paramount importance of deliberate and thoughtful self-control." As for the "unfit" and mentally defective the committee urges the enactment of state legislation forbidding the marriage of such persons.

It would be manifestly unfair to enlightened members of the Episcopalian clergy to accept this report as representative of the best opinion of the Protestant church concerning Birth Control. Readers of these pages will recall the recent courageous sermon delivered in Brighton, England, by the Bishop of Birmingham, in which that leader of religious thought pointed out that Birth Control is not only consistent with the fundamental tenets of Christian ethics, but that in the present situation of the world community, with its chaos and conflict, it is moreover the imperative duty of every thoughtful Christian courageously to participate in our battle for individual and racial regeneration. It is not necessary to reiterate here the courageous words of William Ralph Inge, the Very Reverend Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London. Nor is it necessary to recall that ever-growing list of enlightened and brave members of the Episcopal clergy who have come out without subterfuge or equivocation in defence of contraception.

Birth Control, as anyone who has taken the trouble to probe beneath the surface of the marriage

problem knows, is not inimical to the best interests of marital or family relations. On the contrary Birth Control, as Lord Dawson of Penn so vigorously pointed out to the Bishops of England in an assemblage not unlike the recent convention at New Orleans, is one of the first requisites to happy marriage. The consummation of marriage effected without fear and the establishment of a creative, life-giving, joyful relationship between the husband and wife—such are the foundations upon which permanent monogamy is established. Only thus can the divorce "evil" be combatted and cured in any constructive fashion. And likewise only by Birth Control—the instrument which empowers parents to determine *when* and *where* and *under what conditions they shall bring children into this world*—can permanent, happy, healthy, wholesome family relations be established. These facts are so "idiotically obvious" that it must bore the readers of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW to find them repeated here. But it is precisely these axioms of racial hygiene which have been overlooked by the high dignitaries of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who are crying aloud against the marriage of mental defectives and for stricter divorce laws.

THE position against Birth Control evidenced in the committee's report is obstructive. It stands in the path of progress—the progress of the splendid awakening within the ranks of the Protestant clergy which may be observed on all sides. The younger men are coming to see that in this great twentieth century task of human liberation and racial rebirth, the Church cannot afford to assume an attitude of arrogant paternalism. The clergy, as the finer more courageous churchmen well realize, must descend from its throne, must join the ranks, and battle for the Lord in tangible concrete effort, translating its religious and ethical truths into contemporary human terms. And first of all,

and last of all, it must learn *to understand human nature*. In understanding, the Protestant Episcopal Church will no longer condemn it, but lead it onward toward the City of God.

**E**DUCATION in contraceptive hygiene will, we believe, be gradually disseminated. It will spread so gradually, so quietly and withal so steadily that even those of us most profoundly interested may never know the full extent of our influence. To aid in this dissemination one of our main tasks must be to remove the most outstanding obstacles in the path of this beneficent stream. For the first time we are extending our work this year to campaign for an amendment to the notoriously obstructive Section 211 of the Federal Penal Code. This is the ignominious law passed in 1878 under the influence of Anthony Comstock. It has never been amended. The most lamentable effect of Section 211 is that it hinders the free circulation among reputable physicians and scientists of data and technical information concerning the progress of contraceptive science abroad and at home. In Europe the results of clinical research are given out to physicians and scientists working in the same fields of investigation. Splendid work is accomplished, and investigators are kept in touch with the achievements of colleagues in other countries.

Lamentably, the reports of clinical research in contraception, as well as all discoveries and improvements in the instrument of Birth Control are refused transmission by the United States mails. Thus an obsolete law, enacted under the sinister regime of the prurient Comstock, stands in the path of scientific and humane progress.

**F**RIENDS of Birth Control may extend real help toward the removal of this shameful Section 211 by writing vigorous protests against its injustice and recommending no less vigorously the support of the proposed amendment to their Senators and Congressmen. November is the month in which these letters should be written. Let us find out exactly how those who have been elected to represent the men and women of the United States stand in this matter.

**C**OURAGE expresses itself in many ways. There is the exceptional spectacular act of heroism which stands out like a bright light on a dark night against the background of undistinguished conduct, or even, sometimes, of cowardice or pettiness. Such acts of heroism shine by

contrast. They bring publicity, praise and medals for valor. The soldier whose every-day behavior may be the very opposite of medal is rewarded by distinguished service medals and thus bribed, like a child, into renewed bravery. Then there is the unexpected adventurous courage of the criminal, often driven to desperate straits by circumstance. Far finer than the courage that is commended by daily newspapers or appeals by its underlying melodrama to the writers of fiction is a type of courage that seems to us peculiarly feminine in quality. Feminine, I mean, in its modesty, its steadfastness, the day-in and day-out type of courage that seeks neither publicity nor the cheap reward of gold medals or public recognition. This is a heroism totally devoid of hysterical enthusiasm, a heroism steady-footed and never marred by any sign of depression or ignoble collapse.

**T**HERE are thousands of women whose lives are the expression of this silent, inarticulate bravery, women who would not know what you were talking about if you praised their indomitable courage. This type of courage, indomitable, invincible, elemental, is incarnate in our own Kitty Marion. For years, in point of fact ever since we have been publishing this REVIEW, she has sold it on the streets of New York. Firmly planted and holding aloft our printed challenge to prejudice as a living statue of liberty, promise of the proximate liberation of suffering womankind.

Standing there immutable, untiring and sure of herself and her conviction in the endless changing eddies and currents of human traffic in overcrowded thoroughfares, the object of ill-concealed curiosity, at times bitterly denounced by the enemies of Birth Control, Kitty Marion has held aloft with telling dramatic gesture the challenge of Birth Control. She has been a beacon light for lost mothers seeking in desperation some way out of the labyrinth of torture to which the laws and the prejudices of legislators have subjected them.

Her absence has made us appreciate more sharply than ever before the significant and finely poised heroism of Kitty Marion. For three summer months she has been away, her vacation taking her to England where, in the militant suffrage movement she had served so valuable an apprenticeship. But now the mothers passing in the hurried eddying tides of Broadway traffic are again seeking her out. They are telling their neighbors and friends of the reappearance of the brave indomitable torchbearer again at her various posts. And we who have during these past months missed Kitty Marion welcome her return and greet her as a true heroine of the Birth Control movement.

# The Truth About France

By G. HARDY

**B**Y the law passed in 1920, all practical Birth Control propaganda in France was absolutely suppressed. Therefore we have no record of progress concerning any organized movement to lay before you. But as this action of the French Government, combined with the continual outcry that France is a dying nation, has been continually urged by our opponents as a strong argument against Birth Control, I hope that a review of the situation in France, exposing the fallacies of our opponents, may be of great interest and importance.\*

## A DYING NATION?

First of all, France is not and never has been a "dying nation," in the sense that the number of deaths exceed that of births. It is only a nation of very slow natural increase. True, there have been a few individual years in which the deaths exceeded the births, but such years occurred long ago, when the birth rate was much higher than it is now.

France has been cited as a disproof of the Malthusian law of overpopulation, but affords really its strongest verification. According to the Malthusian law, an excessive birth-rate means a combined pressure against the food supply, so that the rate of increase of population is held in check by the rate of increase of food, and any excess of births simply means an excess of deaths without any greater increase of population. This is the reason why high birth rates are always associated with high death rates, except in newly settled fertile countries, and why the death rate practically always falls as the birth rate falls in normal circumstances.

Now, how is the food supply of a nation to be increased? Either its internal agricultural production must be increased by taking in new land or improving the cultivation of already cultivated land, or the import of food from abroad must be increased, which can only be done by increasing the exports to pay for it. But France was the first country in Europe to extend its agriculture to the highest pitch, and during the past century, there have been few possibilities either of taking in fresh land or increasing the output of the old. Hence, increase of its internal food production must necessarily be extremely low. Again, as regards export of manufactured goods, France has very little coal and iron and other mineral resources, so that it has been practically impossible for her to compete suc-

cessfully with nations of richer natural resources, such as Great Britain, Germany and the United States. Without going into actual statistics, therefore, which are difficult to obtain, it is obvious that the rate of increase of subsistence in France must be very small and that its excess of births over deaths must also be very small, however great the birth rate may be.

The actual course of the birth and death rates in France during more than a century amply verifies this conclusion. In the years 1771 to 1774, before the revolution, the birth rate of France was given as about 39 per 1,000—higher than the highest figure known for England. But instead of this high birth rate producing a rapid increase of population, it only caused the excessively high death rate of about 37 per 1,000, leaving a natural increase of only 2 per 1,000.

From 1784 to 1800 we have no figures owing to the revolutionary period, but from 1801 they were revived, and the first thing noticeable is a striking drop in the birth rate to 32 for the decade 1801-10, but instead of this having wiped out the natural increase, the death rate dropped to 28, so that the natural increase had actually risen to 4 per 1,000. This would be explained on the Malthusian hypothesis by the fact (a) that the revolution reduced the total population of the country and thus provided room for increase, (b) that the land of the nobles was divided up among the peasants who became their own landlords, and had the best opportunity and incentive for increasing their productivity. But the Napoleonic law of inheritance gave a strong incentive to family limitation, and the birth rate went on falling to 31 in the decade 1821-30.

## EFFECT OF THE WAR

With every fall of the birth rate, the death rate fell even more, so that the natural increase actually rose to 6 per thousand in that decade. After this, the advantages of the new regime appear to have nearly been fully utilised, and further falls of the birth rate, though accompanied by a slow fall in the death rate, resulted in the return of the rate of natural increase to the pre-revolution figure of 2 per thousand in 1871-80. In the decade 1891-1900, when the birth rate had fallen to just over 22 per thousand, the rate of increase was only about 0.5 per 1,000, and a great cry of "race-suicide" went up, but a further fall of the birth rate to 20.8 in 1901-10 resulted in a fall of the death rate to 19.2,

\* Report to the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference, March, 1925.

raising the rate of increase to 15 per 1,000, or nearly as great as the increase when the birth rate was 39. During and since the war there has been a great fall and rise in the birth rate, but it now seems to be settling to a figure of about 18.5 per 1,000, with a death rate of 16.9, leaving the rate of increase at 1.6 per thousand.

All this is consistent with the hypothesis that France has always been an overpopulated country with a normal increase of supporting power of 2 per thousand, and if this is true, it indicates that the rate of increase of population in France has not been in any way diminished by the great fall in its birth rate, and indeed that if its original birth rate of 39 had been maintained, it would still have a death rate of 37 with all the misery this high death rate implies. Now, in a slowly increasing country of little migration like France, C. V. Drysdale has shown that the average duration of life is obtained by dividing 1,000 by the mean between the birth and death rate. Consequently, in 1781-4 when the birth rate was 39 and the death rate 37, the average length of life of the French people was  $1000/38$  or about 26 years, whereas now, with a birth rate of 18.5 and a death rate of 16.9, it would be  $1000/17.7$ , or about 56 years, so that the fall of the birth rate has resulted in more than doubling the average length of life, without reducing the increase of population—a result of which Birth Controllers may well be proud.

And this benefit is well reflected in the present economic state of France. While practically every other country is suffering more or less severely from unemployment and overcrowding, France today has literally no unemployment. Indeed, the demand for labor is such that even old people can easily find employment, and France in addition to finding work for all her own people, has absorbed nearly 250,000 workers from other countries without any dislocation of industry, or protest on the part of its own people.

#### COST OF CHILDREN

It may be said that if France can support these foreigners it could equally well support a greater population of its own, but this again implies ignorance of the true nature of the over-population problem. Children are not born fully equipped for productive work, they have to be supported and educated for 18 to 20 years before they become productive, so that they are actually a drain on the resources of the community until they are mature. The foreign workers are already fully fledged producers, and are in most cases unmarried, so that they actually help to support the French population.

And as regards the housing question, France is probably in a better condition than any other country in Europe at the present time. She has rapidly rebuilt her devastated towns and there is little trouble from want of housing accommodation at the present time.

France has also provided a complete answer to the contention of the late President Roosevelt and other distinguished authorities that an average of four births per family is necessary to maintain the race. Dr. Leroy Beaulieu—an opponent of Birth Control—has shown in his book *La Question de Population* that over a long period the average number of births per marriage in France was only 2.5, yet over that period the French population was steadily increasing by excess of births over deaths, in spite of a fairly high infantile mortality.

#### FURTHER RESTRICTION NEEDED

There is no reason for supposing that the advantages which have resulted from the fall of the birth rate in France have reached their limit, and that a further fall of the birth rate will result in depopulation. The average duration of life in France, although probably as high as in any other country of Europe, is yet far short of a natural maximum, and while this is the case, we may predict that still further falls of the birth rate will result in further decrease in the death rate and an undiminished natural increase in population.

And a much greater progress would certainly be obtained, if the French government, instead of suppressing Birth Control, would facilitate its extension to the poorest and least fit classes. France is not so seriously troubled with the problem of what is called the C3 class as many other countries. But the national physique and prosperity would certainly be improved if the poorest classes were encouraged to restrict instead of to increase their families. At present numerous measures have been voted or decreed for encouraging overpopulation—importation of labor, prizes for births, premiums to women in childbirth and vacations for pregnant women officials, reductions of rent and of travelling charges, relief of taxation, and of military service, indemnities for family burdens for officials, and even medals for mothers of large families. It is proposed to institute a family vote, and an attempt is being made to apply a system which would increase the wages of fathers of large families, the "family super-wage."

The action of the State is assisted by that of individuals, the great business man. Prizes are distributed and dowries, some of which are very valu-

(Continued on page 333)

# The Sexual Enlightenment of Children

*The paper by DR SIGMUND FREUD, from which we present liberal extracts is available in full in the translation of the "Collected Papers," put out by the Hogarth Press (London) It may well be called the classic statement on the need of sex teaching for the young A review of the Papers is in preparation*

I AM to answer the questions whether children may be given any information at all in regard to the facts of sexual life, and at what age and in what way this should be done Now let me confess at the outset that discussion with regard to the second and third points seems to me perfectly reasonable, but that to my mind it is quite inconceivable how the first of these questions could ever be the subject of debate

What can be the aim of withholding from children, or let us say from young people, this information about the sexual life of human beings? Is it a fear of arousing interest in such matters prematurely, before it spontaneously stirs in them? Is it a hope of retarding by concealment of this kind the development of the sexual instinct in general, until such time as it can find its way into the only channels open to it in the civilized social order? Is it supposed that children would show no interest or understanding of the facts and riddles of sexual life if they were not prompted to do so by outside influence? Is it regarded as possible that the knowledge withheld from them will not reach them in other ways? Or is it genuinely and seriously intended that later on they should consider everything connected with sex as something despicable and abhorrent, from which their parents and teachers wish to keep them apart as long as possible?

I am really at a loss to say which of these can be the motive for the customary concealment from children of everything connected with sex I only know that these arguments are one and all equally foolish and that I find it difficult to pay them the compliment of serious refutation

IT is surely nothing else but habitual prudery and a guilty conscience in themselves about sexual matters which causes adults to adopt this attitude of mystery towards children, possibly, however, a piece of theoretical ignorance on their part, to be counteracted only by fresh information, is also responsible It is commonly believed that the sexual instinct is lacking in children, and only begins to arise in them when the sexual organs mature This is a grave error, equally serious from the point of view both of theory and of actual practice It is so easy to correct it by observation that one can only

wonder how it can ever have arisen As a matter of fact, the new-born infant brings sexuality with it into the world, certain sexual sensations attend its development while at the breast and during early childhood, and only very few children would seem to escape some kind of sexual activity and sexual experiences before puberty

PUBERTY merely brings about attainment of the stage at which the genitals acquire supremacy among all the zones and sources of pleasure, and in this way presses erotism into the service of reproduction, a process which naturally can undergo certain inhibitions, in the case of those persons who later on become perverts and neurotics this process is only incompletely accomplished On the other hand, the child is capable long before puberty of most of the mental manifestations of love, for example, tenderness, devotion and jealousy Often enough the connection between these mental manifestations and the physical sensation of sexual excitation is so close that the child cannot be in doubt about the relation between the two To put it briefly, the child is long before puberty a being capable of mature love, lacking only the ability for reproduction, and it may be definitely asserted that the mystery which is set up withholds him only from intellectual comprehension of achievements for which he is psychically and physically prepared

The intellectual interest of a child in the riddle of sexual life, his desire for knowledge, finds expression at an earlier period of life than is usually suspected If they have not often come across cases, parents must either be afflicted with blindness in regard to this interest in their children, or, when they cannot overlook it, must make every effort to stifle it

The second great problem which exercises a child's mind, probably at a rather later date, is that of the origin of children, and is usually aroused by the unwelcome arrival of a baby brother or sister This is the oldest and most burning question that assails immature humanity, those who understand how to interpret myths and legends can detect it in the riddle which the Theban Sphinx set to Oedipus The answers usually given to children in the nursery wound the child's frank and genuine spirit of

investigation, and generally deal the first blow at his confidence in his parents, from this time onwards he commonly begins to mistrust grown-up people and keeps to himself what interests him most

I do not think that there is even one good reason for denying children the information which their thirst for knowledge demands. To be sure, if it is the purpose of educators to stifle the child's power of independent thought as early as possible, in order to produce that "good behavior" which is so highly prized, they cannot do better than deceive children in sexual matters and intimidate them by religious means. The stronger characters will, it is true, withstand these influences, they will become rebels against the authority of their parents and later against every other form of authority.

When children do not receive the explanations for which they turn to their elders, they go on tormenting themselves in secret with the problem and produce attempts at solution in which the truth they have guessed is mixed up in the most extraordinary way with grotesque inventions, or else they whisper confidences to each other which, because of the sense of guilt in the youthful inquirers, stamp everything sexual as horrible and disgusting. These infantile sexual theories are well worth collecting and examining. After these experiences children usually lose the only proper attitude to sexual questions, many of them never to find it again.

It would seem that the overwhelming majority of writers, both men and women, who have dealt with the question of explaining sexual matters to children have expressed themselves in favor of enlightenment. The clumsiness, however, of most of their proposals how and when this enlightenment should be carried out leads one to conclude that they have not found it very easy to venture this admission. The customary method is obviously not the right one. All sexual knowledge is kept from children as long as possible, and then on one single occasion an explanation, which is even then only

half the truth and generally comes too late, is proffered them in mysterious and solemn language.

Most of the answers to the question "How can I tell my children?" make such a pitiful impression, at least upon me, that I should prefer parents not to concern themselves with the explanation at all. It is much more important that children should never get the idea that one wants to make more of a secret of the facts of sexual life than of any other matter not suited to their understanding. To ensure this it is necessary that from the very beginning everything sexual should be treated like everything else that is worth knowing about. Above all, schools should not evade the task of mentioning sexual matters, lessons about the animal kingdom should include the great facts of reproduction, which should be given their due significance, and emphasis should be laid at the same time on the fact that man shares with the higher animals everything essential to his organization.

THEN, if the atmosphere of the home does not make for suppression of all reasoning, something similar to what I once overheard in a nursery would probably occur oftener. A small boy said to his little sister, "How can you think the stork brings babies? You know that man is a mammal, do you suppose that storks bring other mammals their young too?" In this way the curiosity of children will never become very intense, for at each stage in its inquiries circumstances of human sexuality and some indication of its social significance should be provided before the child is eleven years old. The age of confirmation would be a more suitable time than any other at which to instruct the child, who already has full knowledge of the physical facts involved, in those social obligations which are bound up with the actual gratification of this instinct. A gradual and progressive course of instruction in sexual matters such as this, at no period interrupted, seems to me to be the only method of giving the necessary information that takes into consideration the development of the child and thus successfully avoids ever-present dangers.

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We, they say, live an unperilled life  
 At home, while they do battle with the spear—  
 Unreasoning fools! Thrice would I under shield  
 Stand, rather than bear childbed-peril once

—EURIPIDES' *MEDEA*, v 248-251



# The Unwanted Child Comes Before the Court

By MIRIAM VAN WATERS

*"Delinquency in young children," says Dr Van Waters, "is a symptom of deep distress. Delinquent children are often unwanted children"*

WHATEVER approach one takes to the study of delinquency one is led into the family group. All studies of the individual delinquent show the limitations of the statistical method. When we have weighed, measured, diagnosed and analyzed the individual, and he becomes a vivid reality to us, physically and mentally, we see how barren of results it all is unless we also envisage him as a human being responding to other human beings.\*

Lombroso sought to explain the offender in physiological and anatomical terms, and more recently those who rely solely on tests of intelligence have labored to demonstrate a causal relationship between mental capacity and conduct. All these materialistic studies fail to tell us why an individual becomes an offender. William Healy was the first investigator to point out the importance of the emotional factor. Through his studies in the Chicago Juvenile Court and in the Judge Baker Foundation the fundamental idea of the delinquent as an experiencing human being in the midst of a great variety of social influences became apparent.

## *Delinquents Group-Made*

The delinquent cannot be explained wholly in physical or mental terms. He is a product of a vast number of minute social responses. A feeble-minded, hunchbacked syphilitic boy may develop useful habits of work and harmless habits of recreation and may be trained to respond to certain simple social demands. An alert, healthy, well endowed individual may develop anti-social attitudes and reactions and may take to burglary, or predatory politics.

It is not a matter of original endowment, but of the interplay of emotion, personality and social experience.

The individual is not "self-made so much as he is group-made." In order to understand the behavior of any human being it is necessary to know

what he has experienced in the social groups that touch him most closely. Edward Lindeman\* has shown that the most important thing to know about an individual is to what group does his vital interest cling, in which of the groups family, school, neighborhood, church, club, or gang is he living most vigorously?

For the young child the family group should be the most vital, affording him the most comfort and security and the best place for self-expression and fulfillment. Unless he can obtain in his home these legitimate satisfactions he is driven prematurely to the streets, or if he is a solitary child he may develop outlets such as excessive day-dreaming, timidity, temper-tantrums, lying, stealing, running away, setting fires and the like.

So often we hear lack of proper parental control blamed for delinquency. Parents are advised in pulpit and press to use the rod, be more firm in discipline, assert their authority. How tragic is most of this advice! It misses the central point: delinquency in young children is a symptom of deep distress. To use blind and ignorant force against the offending child is to display adult cruelty and stupidity at its worst.

The fact is delinquent children are very often unwanted children. The only child, pampered, spoiled, over indulged and sheltered, frequently becomes delinquent because his parents are too engrossed in personal ambition, careers of business, invalidism or other absorbing occupations to be really interested in a child. They give him his own way, not because they love him, but because this course is the quickest road to their own goal of being let alone. The idea of true parenthood, that of intense desire for the well-being of the child, and respect for his growing personality has never occurred to them.

## *Why Girls Go Wrong*

So too the unwanted child in the large family where the mother can provide nothing of motherhood to the individual save its physical aspect may become delinquent. Particularly is it true that girls go wrong in such families.

Marion Kenworthy† in a brilliant study of delinquent girls has shown us that illicit sex relations may be the result of maladjusted family life.

(Continued on page 332)

\* "The Community"

† The Mental Hygiene Aspects of Illegitimacy. Reprint No. 115. National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 370 Seventh Ave., New York City.

\* Address before Sixth International Neo Malthusian and Birth Control Conference, March, 1925

## “Fewer and Better Babies”

At the Exposition of Women's Arts and Industries, New York City, September 21-26

*By Those Who Served at the Birth Control Booth*

**T**HE six hundred men and women who signed the petition for a Birth Control Amendment to the United States Postal Law were but a small percentage of the thousands who stopped and expressed their approval to those who served at the Birth Control Booth at the Hotel Commodore

This is the second year the American Birth Control League has had a booth at the women's exposition and there was ample evidence of a tremendous increase in the support of public opinion in the interval. For where a hundred stopped at the booth last year, a thousand stopped this year, and where a dozen answered the question "Are you interested in Birth Control?" with an eager, "Yes, indeed!" a hundred gave that answer and took away literature this year. Four, and generally five persons were busy at the booth all day long. Two thousand pieces of literature were given out a day, and they were given only if the passerby showed a real interest.

Other exhibitors left their own booths and came time and again to get further information, and an attendant in a neighboring booth expressed a very general feeling when she said "We are so busy listening to you that we forget to give out our leaflets. The expression on people's faces when they see 'Birth Control League' is a study. Then you offer a leaflet with a smile. They hesitate, some shyly take the paper and go a few steps, then pause and one of you catches their glance and in a few seconds an animated discussion is on. Yours is certainly the most fascinating booth in the exhibition."

THE booth proved fascinating to many classes. The words Birth Control appealed as strongly to the negro school teacher who wanted all the information she could get to pass on to the mothers of her charges as they did to the rich woman whose laundress was losing her health and efficiency year by year, as her family increased, or the prosperous middle class mother who wanted to know about Birth Control for the sake of her little girl, just married.

There was a better understanding of the social bearings of Birth Control than last year, though now and again the personal note came in. "I am too old to need Birth Control," somebody answered and passed on. "From the looks of things," said an

overdressed old maiden lady, with a giggle, "I shall have no use for Birth Control." But another who called herself "old maid" and was an active social worker, felt differently, for she saw the crying need of it every day in her work.

THE least self-conscious and most deeply interested of all groups were the younger generation. College boys and girls came frankly up and said they had heard a lecture on Birth Control and would like to know all there was to know. High school girls, sent to gather theme material at the exposition flocked to the booth. These were given good measure, for not only did they take away free literature on Birth Control, but many of them eagerly bought "What Every Girl Should Know." It is a commentary on our educational system that up to then few of them knew anything about the facts of reproduction, though all had studied high school hygiene. All these young people were intelligent and clean thinking and one felt that the few who are alarmed about the coming generation have no need to worry.

Enthusiasm is easy and "God speed the work" comes lightly, when others do it and take the responsibility for their acts. There was a relatively large percentage of signatures to the federal

**25,000**

AMERICAN MOTHERS  
GIVE UP THEIR LIVES  
EVERY YEAR

FROM CAUSES

*connected with*

CHILDBIRTH

POSTER

amendment petition—large for petitions, that is, for there appears to be a special and widespread psychology that fears signing a paper “Very important measure, Birth Control,” said one bystander, “No, I won’t sign the petition. Never mind the literature.” “I am a thorough enthusiast for your work,” said another, “and I would like to further the cause.” “Then you will want to sign this The United States Postal Law—” “Oh, no,” holding up two hands palms out, “I don’t want to sign anything!”

Sometimes it was a misplaced egotism and ignorance that signatures to such documents are as impersonal as numbers. “I believe in Birth Control but I dislike publicity,” was heard more than once. It must be said for those who were thus shy, however, that not a few went away to think it over and came back and signed. Sometimes of two together one would sign, the other refuse, often a husband seemed to think his wife’s signature would do for both. “I’ll sign this for my heart is in it,” said one rather resigned looking woman. “Won’t your husband sign too?” “Oh no, I’m sure *he* won’t.”

The critics were there too, and it is safe to say that few critics went away ignorant of Birth Control, no matter how violent their first attack and unwillingness to hear the other side. There was the woman who shook her fist and called out, “Anti-Christ!” There was the woman who said “Your work is Godless. Now if you would organize to attack the crime of cigarette smoking—”

Many Roman Catholics came to the booth, both critics and supporters. Two priests took careful note of the educational posters, supplied themselves with literature and went away, polite but with souls disturbed by the solid scientific and humanitarian support the movement had won, as well as by the more concrete detail of the number of Catholic women who come each quarter to the Clinical Research Department. Among lay Catholics there were all degrees from disapproval to, in surprisingly large proportion, an enthusiastic approval and the conviction openly expressed that their parishioners would, in time “bring the priests round.”

AMONG those Roman Catholics who disapproved were two young mothers who confessed that they had all the children they wanted and were themselves using contraceptive measures, but who vehemently protested against their general use.

There were a few other objectors. One visitor from Main Street protested that she was shocked we were not arrested. But she added after a few minutes talk, “Well, I have heard you spoken of lately in very good society.”

## SOME OF THE CHAMPIONS OF BIRTH CONTROL

RABBI STEPHEN S WISE  
PROFESSOR C C LITTLE  
DR WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY  
DR FRANK CRANE  
SINCLAIR LEWIS

HENRI BARBUSSE (France)  
BARON ISHIMOTO (Japan)  
HAVELOCK ELLIS (England)  
G BERNARD SHAW (England)  
H G WELLS (England)  
DEAN INGE (England)  
FRIDJOF NANSEN (Norway)

### A POSTER

A little round woman stood in the middle of the aisle. “I don’t approve of *that*”—pointing to the mortality figures in childbirth. “You’ve no right to let young women know that.” “But it’s true.” “Well, it can’t be helped.” A pause. “I’ve had six. My son is twenty-nine.” “And the others?” “Were all stillborn but one. It lived a day.”

Those few who said, “We don’t know and we don’t want to know,” we could do nothing with, but many other critics were impressed, for willingness to talk is itself a stage in conversion from prejudice to approval, and with a clear understanding often doubts resolve themselves.

To some who attended the women’s exposition Birth Control was a new idea and to some of these when they heard about it it seemed to be what someone calls a “cardinal illumination” on the path of progress. Most, however, knew something of it and many of these, surprisingly many, knew of it from “the woman who sells the paper on the street”—Kitty Marion. Others came because they heard the radio talk on Birth Control broadcasted from the exposition early in the week. Many, indeed, who never came to the exposition heard the broadcasted message, so the audience reached by the Birth Control Booth is infinitely larger than the thousands we saw and spoke to in person.

Those who attended the booth were Mrs. Clara B. Carter, Mrs. J. Bishop Vandever, Mrs. Anne Kennedy, Miss Elisabeth Grew, Mrs. Bessie Potter Smith, Miss Anna Lifschitz and Mrs. Mary Sumner Boyd. Two at least of these, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Kennedy, made a twelve-hour day of it, working from eleven a.m. to eleven p.m.

# Eugenics for India

By N S PHADKE, M A

*Prof Phadke recently won a prize from an Indian learned society for his monograph on Eugenics. We give below a few extracts which show the place he concedes to Birth Control in a Eugenic program*

HE alone is a true economist whose economics is always "live," who judges of all things in terms, not of "money" value, or numerical value, but of human value. Economics must embrace the study of the whole nature of man, not merely of the man who eats and dresses himself, but also of the man who feels, aspires, laughs and weeps.

Marx would have us regard hunger as the sole motive force of all human affairs. There is another mother impulse which no psychologist will allow us to ignore—the impulse of love. Hunger and love are the two great mother impulses, the ultimate source of all other impulses. Why, we may go a step further and assert that in the ultimate analysis of things the impulse of love—or what is vulgarly described as the impulse to reproduce—will be found to be more primary.

In the case of unicellular organisms continuation of their own lives and reproduction are offered by Nature as *alternatives*. And out of the two alternatives they universally accept the latter. Even in the case of the lower animals, in whom the reproductive process is sexual and does not so severely conflict with continuation of life, we find that the instinct of love plays a decidedly superior part to the instinct of hunger.

## A World Mission

AMONG animals the sexual act is determined by *natural selection* and not by any extraneous—shall we call them economic?—considerations. In civilized man, however, things are topsyturvy, the demands of nutrition over-ride those of reproduction. People marry or abstain from marriage from economic considerations. Sexual selection gives place to economic selection and the nation or the race goes to ruin. It is of utmost importance to bear in mind, therefore, that Eugenics, i.e., the scientific endeavor to improve the physical and mental racial quality of the future generations, far from being alien to Economics, deserves to be recognized by all true economists as a science of which Economics may well be a hand-maid.

Eugenics is evidently a world-mission. It should know no limits of nationalities and religions. I will, however, restrict myself and speak from our na-

tional point of view. And that will rather facilitate my attempt to convince our race of the urgent need of studying Eugenic principles. For is not our country to-day clamoring for self-government? And what can be the foremost duty of freedom-thirsty citizens if not a sincere endeavor to grow strong, to beget a race of strong men and women? And none need hesitate to heartily take up a fully Eugenic attitude towards life through fear that it will perhaps mean a departure from our ancient Aryan civilization.

## Eugenics in the Vedas

OUR ancients were not only awake to the profound importance of Eugenics, but fully alive to the necessity of impressing on men and women the duty of breeding a race of "warriors." The Aryans had to settle in the land and drive out the aborigines or at least to swamp them. Fighting had to be their creed. Hence for them a good citizen meant a "fighter." In some of the Upanishads and Sutras we come across portions which are devoted to an elaborate discussion of methods which when practiced would make women mothers of *Virs* i.e., warriors. It may be said without exaggeration that throughout the literature of the Vedic times we see numerous passages where the chief blessing sought at the hands of the deity is the progeny of fighting men. In Mahabharata too the idea of a race of warriors is prominently discernible. To quote these passages would make the main body of the article look like the mythical man who was himself only three inches in height, but had a beard measuring four times his body. Suffice it to say that Eugenics is not a western importation into India.

Indian Eugenics cannot any longer be neglected. I should like to go still further and say that the Eugenic movement is one which may provide a common platform to all Indian leaders, politicians, poets, scientists and social reformers. I emphasize the last name, *for the movement to study all the agencies by which the Indian race may be improved, and endeavor to give practical effect to those agencies by conscious and deliberate action in favor of better breeding*, may be regarded as but a new phase of Social Reform, in the truest sense of the term. Up to now Social Reform in our minds has had a

narrow meaning and a restricted sphere as against political movements and industrial reorganization

Social Reform has meant an endeavor to bring about certain changes in the marriage customs and caste regulations inherited from the ancient culture. The Social Reformers have assigned to themselves the evidently limited, though of course, highly valuable and important in itself, task of awakening people to the consciousness of the evil consequences of early marriages, of the prevention of widow marriage, and of a caste system which divides society into distinct classes of rigid values with prejudices, suspicions and ill-feelings towards one another. The Social Reformers have always championed the cause of female education. But even taking that into consideration, Social Reform in India seems to have touched only the first preliminaries of the evolution of a strong race of Indians. In fact Social Reform in our country was never conceived or conducted from the point of view of the whole race.

It was more or less considerations of individual freedom of action and the injustice of cruel social obligations that inspired the revolt of Social Reformers. When for instance, the advocate of widow marriage put his case before the people, he never said a word of the great loss to society and the race which is consequent on the imposition of virginity on a widow just budding into youth, who may, if society sanctions her marriage, bring forth children worthy to become the acknowledged leaders of the nation, warriors, or statesmen, or poets. He only harped on the great iniquity of compelling a youthful widow of seventeen to pass the whole of her life in renunciation and allowing an old man of seventy to marry for the fourth or fifth time.

Thus Social Reform was guided by the comparatively narrow motives of individual welfare, justice and equality. But times have changed. We are daily growing more conscious of the fact that we

together make a nation, and that if we are going to live and rule we shall do so as a race and not as individuals. This new sense of a racial existence has tinged all national questions and it is no wonder if Social Reform shows signs of a broadening vision and an expanded scope of work.

But there is a further step which remains to be taken. Social Reformers have tried to improve the institution of marriage. They have endeavored to educate the children of society. Of late they have also started infant welfare centres and maternity hospitals. National Baby Weeks too have recently come in vogue. All those attempts have their own value. But they are all based on the presumption that you must accept the water of life as you find it, and only work to cleanse the banks of the stream. But this presumption sets an undesirable and arbitrary term to the glorious work of purifying society and increasing its vitality. The next stage of Social Reform must be to go to *the very source of life*. We must lift ourselves beyond the task of ameliorating the conditions of life and lay on ourselves the further and higher task of regulating the Quality and improving the Quantity of life at its very source. Of course, the purifying, cleansing, ordering, and consolidating the banks of the stream of life will always remain. But if we set ourselves to the more radical work of controlling the stream at its very source we shall be able, to a considerable extent, to prevent the contamination of the water by filth and take care that its muddy floods shall not wash out the results of labor on its banks. In short, our sense of Social Reform which has up till now been very largely individual, must develop into a sense of truly Social, or rather Racial, responsibility. When this happens Eugenics will become the common platform for all the sons of India striving for their motherland's regeneration.

### THE MOTHER

SO that mysterious mother, faint with sleep,  
 Had given into her arms her new-born son  
 And felt upon her bosom the cherished one  
 Breathe, and stiffen his tiny limbs and weep  
 Her arms became as wings folding him over  
 Into that lovely pleasaunce, and her heart  
 Beat like a tiny bell "He is my lover,  
 He is my son, and we shall never part—  
 Never, never, never, never—But why?"  
 And she suddenly bowed her head and began to cry

—KATHERINE MANSFIELD in the *New Republic*

# FATHERS AND MOTHERS

*Letters Which Present the Problem of Both Parents*

*Though the mother's interest is more poignant, both parents have everything to gain by Birth Control. The father's problem is both practical and emotional, to spare his wife suffering and exhaustion and to keep his family within his means to care for them properly.*

*When more parents stand solidly behind the movement for Birth Control, one great problem of family life will be solved.*

## Hazards

Panama, C Z

Permit me to congratulate you upon your diligent and most worthy efforts to curtail one of the most piteous evils of the present day, viz, excessive child-bearing, with all its attendant side-issues. I feel that any intelligent human can see the evil, and I call it piteous, inasmuch as it is the product of ignorance rather than premeditated intent.

I spent twenty-four hours in my wife's sick-room, from the time pain forced her there until my boy was born. It was her wish and my own that I might witness the end of what I had started without consulting her. The consultation, however, would not have altered the result, as we were both supremely ignorant of any means of contraception, except those which we had both been taught—and believed—were a violation of marital sanctity.

I was able to procure for her the very best of medical attention and I did so. Her surroundings were almost ideal, and her slightest wishes during her sickness were fulfilled. These conditions to some men, perhaps, are sufficient to compensate for the fact that a young, beautiful little wife lay on a sick-bed before me, writhing in agony of almost excruciating nature while her strength lasted, and when it failed, or the pain ceased momentarily, to see her dropping down into death's lowest state, a pallid, quivering, crumpled thing. For what? What had she done? I wish every sexual ignoramus who is intelligent otherwise, might see that picture in his own home, when his first child is born. If any compassion or justice is in his blood, his wife will come into her own.

I am an officer connected with Naval Aviation, and my duties as an aviator have been of such a variable nature that I have witnessed, at one time or another, almost every conceivable manner of air disaster—men blown to shreds, burned to death, crashing from altitudes, beheaded by propellers, and men mangled for life, but these men loved the thrill of adventure they found in the game. They chose it. They knew the worst and expected it sooner or later. They were fine boys, good friends and we are all sorry. But—*They Knew*. There was no element of injustice in their case.

This little girl who married, because she felt that the man of her choice was big and good and just, and would protect her and help her make her dreams come true, had made no bets with fate, on the short end. *She didn't know*. Her mother was a good woman who kept those horrible secrets away from her girl—successfully—if she knew. She trusted me—and I fumbled the ball, also through ignorance. The result was a girl, nineteen years of age, in the picture I have drawn here. Her boy was perfect, her health is far above average, but I can see the damage done because of her youth, and I am hoping that what I can see is all that exists.

That is my experience of five years ago, so I feel that, if for no other reason, this letter should be written as a testimonial to anyone who has the moral stamina to expose this "sexual secrecy bunk" and give it an airing, as you have done in "Woman and the New Race," which was loaned to and read by me lately. There is also another reason for this letter. It follows, after taking the attitude which I did five years ago, that I emancipated my wife. While poverty has never entered our door, we both feel that our present circumstances will only permit us to raise our boy in the best environment and guarantee him a thorough education. I am going to follow my wife's desires in Birth Control. But as for the best and most correct method, I must still plead ignorance. We have consulted physicians, and as I am stationed on a Hospital ship, I am surrounded by them. But we are still ignorant. You know, I have no doubt, and you can, if you feel disposed, give authentic information.

Again expressing a whole-hearted sympathy with your adopted work.

## "Babies and Babies 'till I Die"

Ohio

I am sure that if you feel any pity for me you will grant me my wish. It will mean so much to me, as I am nearly frantic with worry. I do not know what to do. I am to become a mother for the fourth time and am in perfect dread.

I was married when I was just past fourteen, to a man eight years my senior. I had no mother to enlighten me as to the facts of life and my father thought it was not necessary, so I went into the marital bonds without any knowledge of Life. I was just a mere child. As a result of my ignorance, we had a baby girl, just ten months after we were married, and if ever any woman was in agony at such a time I was. I made up my mind that it would not happen again until I wanted another child, which was not soon. So I asked my neighbor for information and she advised a method which I thought would work, but to my sorrow I found that it did not. So we had a little boy when I was sixteen. Just think! Two children at the age of sixteen. Mrs. Sanger, at times I felt like giving it all up, but I loved my babies, and for their sake could not. It was hard sailing for us, my husband did not earn very much and as soon as we did save a little money it had to go for doctor bills. I am not very well, nor strong.

At the advent of the second baby, I asked my physician what to do so as not to have more unwanted babies. He suggested something but it did not work so I went to him to get rid of the third baby but he refused, saying it would injure my health to do so. He didn't see that I was ruining my health by having another baby. But I thought, as he refused to do for me what I had asked of him, I would go to some other physician. I went to four but they all told me the same thing. They did not indulge in such practice and would not under any consideration do what I asked of them. So that was that. I was going to have a third baby. I lived in constant dread, fear and worry. Deep in my heart I wished the baby would be born dead. But no, Fate or whatever it is, was against me for I had another baby boy.

At the birth of this third baby the doctor told me that for the sake of my health I should be careful, and not to have any more babies for a few years. But he omitted to state what to do so as to follow his advice.

My health is very poor and I have lost weight until now at the age of nineteen I weigh only 99 pounds. I am 5 ft 3ins tall. Everyone tells me I am getting thinner and thinner, and if I get any worse I will dry up and blow away.

Here is the bitterest part of my story. I am going to have another baby in September and I have a feeling that I will not pull through. I hope I do, for I do love my three unwanted babies with all my heart and I hope I can love my fourth just as I do these three, but I am having a hard time. I do all of my own housework, cooking, washing, ironing, house cleaning and everything. My husband is good to me, he helps as much as possible, but his earnings are not adequate for a family of five, which will soon be increased to six. That means more doctor bills, food, clothes.

Now, dear Mrs. Sanger, you have read my pitiful little story. I hope with all my heart and soul that you will

help me. Everyone has refused, and people that have tried to help, offered suggestions which were useless to me. I read in your book about contraceptives. My hopes were high when I had my first baby. I had made plans for our future. I had planned on giving my baby an education such as I was unable to have, planned on sending her through college, but I have had to give up all hope of such, with my increasing family. I feel that I am doomed to have babies, babies and babies until I die. Have pity, please tell me what to do, so I won't have any more babies. I feel that I have done my share towards the good of the human race. Now my one hope lies in your kindness, I deserve it, and please tell me, as a mother to a daughter, what to do for the benefit of myself and my babies.

## An Economic Problem

New York

I am thirty-two years old and have been married twelve years, my wife giving birth to four children.

I doubt whether it is necessary for me to tell you of the hard struggle I have had to make a living for the family, while working in a tailor shop. I take it you are well aware of this fact. I took sick with tuberculosis four years ago, and have been "on the cure" ever since. I am pronounced fit to go home to take up the struggle again, and am expecting to leave this sanatorium about the middle of this month. The first problem that's facing me is how to prevent adding any more to a family that I cannot take care of properly.

Of course "abstinence" would be the answer to my problem, but both my wife and I are of an affectionate nature, and we could hardly apply abstinence with any kind of success. I know from past experience.

I have applied for advice and help to some of the doctors I know, but they have either no advice to give me, or won't give it, which is hardly justice, especially in my case.

My wife is of a modest or shy nature, which keeps her from obtaining any information from other sources, such as neighbors or woman friends, and besides such information is risky and not dependable.

You see what predicament we find ourselves in and why I appeal to you, through this letter, to help us out of it, for which my wife and I would ever feel grateful to you.

## A Sickly Mother

New York

Please excuse me in being so forward in writing to you but I have heard of you and would like to ask your advice. I am married five years, two boys and have had four two-months' miscarriages. I weigh 96 pounds, anemia and very weak heart, always fainting. Doctor told me if I give birth to any more children I will not live through it. I am killing myself taking all kinds of pills and medicines.

# Goldie Grasshopper

By ELEANOR ROWLAND WEMBRIDGE

## CHAPTER II

FOR Goldie to marry Jake presented no marked advantages, beyond the rather mythical one of providing little Jakie with a name. As yet his father knew nothing of his existence and Goldie was in no hurry to inform him. Jakie could wait for his last name. Even his first one was only his by a kind of natural right. His ludicrous resemblance to his sleek beady-eyed father, both in his face and in his saxophonic utterance, made Goldie call him Jake only because he *was* Jake, and she could call him nothing else. What Jakie needed more than a surname was someone who could guarantee him an adequate milk diet. The little fellow had not taken kindly to any brands as yet provided, which ranged from patent foods in a bottle to condensed from a can, but which were all alike in disagreeing with him, and in costing more money than Goldie could spare.

IN the matter of paying milk bills, Jake was no better off than she, for whereas he earned more, he already had a mother and a grandmother to support. His father, somewhat gifted and wholly unreliable, had drifted off the scene years before, leaving his own mother for his weak and sickly wife to feed. When Jake showed an inheritance of his father's musical gift, and could play not only every tune, but almost every noise he heard, on his saxophone, his mother gave up her feeble efforts to earn their food and rent by working in a laundry, and expected nineteen-year-old Jake to give her the living which his father had failed to provide. Although something of an invalid, she was only forty, so was likely to live on forever and effectually to prevent Jake from ever being able to support a family of his own. The old grandmother, of whom Jake was rather fond, and of whose eyes he was the very apple, was crippled with rheumatism and could never work again, although she too came of long-lived stock, and had an excellent appetite. Goldie had been at their rooms to practise some dance steps with Jake. She liked the old lady who had praised the way in which Goldie imitated some of her girlish dance steps from her description.

She would have sacrificed her feelings, to be sure, if it would have done her any good. But since no more money could be extracted from Jake than he had—the amount of which she knew to a penny, and his two parents were more dependent on him

than she, she was in no hurry to marry for the sake of a living she could not get, and on the contrary run the risk of having to support his dependents in case Jake took it into his head to follow his father's example and run away. She was fond of Jake and always had been. But marriage was an economic proposition not to be entered into too lightly with a baby to support.

So Goldie went to a rooming house, left the baby with the landlady and got a job. Her first venture was in a store selling gloves. But Jake was so fretful, and it took so much time to feed him, that the landlady said she could not bother with him at any price his mother could pay. Several store and factory jobs and endless rooming houses ended in the same dilemma. Evidently Goldie must stay at home with her son and feed him, and the only place where a girl with a baby to feed can be employed is in a house. For Goldie the show girl even to contemplate work in anyone's kitchen, shows how she had been shaken from her customary habits. Kitchen drudgery filled her with the contempt and loathing usual in her class. But in spite of the fact that she tried to give satisfaction and the housekeepers who employed her tried to be satisfied, the experiment was never a success. Goldie's standards of housekeeping were those of the shabbiest rooming houses and the dressing rooms of cheap theatres. Disorder and dirty dishes, tattered finery, and eating and sleeping at odd hours, constituted the atmosphere in which she had always felt at home.

She had always fed more upon jokes, dance steps, joy-rides and applause from dingy burlesque audiences, than she had upon calories or vitamins. To be thrust suddenly into a modern housekeeper's kitchen, with nooks and crevices to be mopped, refrigerators to be kept full of ice, kettles scrubbed on the outside, and meals produced on time, was as much beyond her ken as if she were an alley kitten. The latter demand especially amazed her. Hitherto she had dropped into a delicatessen when she was hungry, or had got someone to feed her after the show, when she was broke. The incomprehensible women for whom she worked, with their eyes on the clock, flew at a meal according to its dictates, and demanded that it be on the table as punctually as a show man rings up the curtain. Usually when it was prepared, not without heat



and worry, the family had to be drummed up from the piazza, the garage, or the bath tub to eat it

"Why not wait till the gang's hungry?" Goldie would inquire "Skip a meal now and then and they'd hop into line" But this practical suggestion never met with a favorable response "These fat women have to look at the clock to see if its time to get hungry and eat a meal But I suppose they're hungry all the time—that's why they're fat," she reflected philosophically Most of her employers, to their credit be it said, were genuinely sorry for her, and tried to help her for the sake of the baby, who of course was a great inconvenience But Goldie's complete lack of any housewifely instincts usually wore out their patience, and she was unable to pretend to an interest in their monotonous schedules and solemn rites To pour hot rinsing water on the dishes for instance, when Heaven knew they had already been washed clean beyond all reason, was a continual irritation In vain did housekeepers tell her that unrinsed dishes were a menace Goldie had eaten off too many of them and had survived

THE simple fact was that Goldie was a grasshopper, born of grasshoppers, and bred to no other purpose but the hopping and skipping of grasshoppers in a third rate show In the insect world, such birth and breeding gives one the right to fulfill the vocation for which one was born and bred But in the human world, only those with a bank account are entitled to carry out such antics A poor young female of the human species, no matter what her inheritance or training, must be an ant or a busy bee The leapings of the grasshopper world are only for those who can afford them, and Goldie emphatically could not One evening, after a day in which she had melted the coffee pot, left food to spoil in an iceless ice box, and nearly set them all on fire with an electric iron which she had forgotten to detach—Goldie strolled disconsolately up and down the walk, pushing little Jakie in his go-cart

Suddenly she heard in a well-known voice—"For the Lord's sake—Goldie Where the hell you been?"—and Jake strolled up behind her His saxophone was under his arm He was on his way, it appeared, to play in a jazz orchestra for a college dance "Taken to baby-farming?" he asked, staring in amazement Then—"You ain't married, are you Goldie?" he added slowly Goldie stared back at him in silence She had seen him but once since the night she disappeared from the show, and that was one evening when she had stolen back into the audience, and watched the kicking of the chorus and Jake's trick playing, in a bitter incognito She had sent him no word, asked nothing from him, and had

never made up her mind whether or not she ever would But here he was, through no contrivance of hers

ON a sudden impulse she pushed back the top of the baby coach and turned little Jakie so that his father could get a look at him directly in the eyes "Yours?" he whispered under his breath "Yours," she answered He started back as if struck in the face, and the color raced into his cheeks, suffused his forehead, tinged his ears, and ran down his neck The sleek and slender Jake for once was as completely off his guard as Goldie and Gracie had been when first they gazed at one another in the hospital The same elemental force had him in its grip He started to take his breath for a burst of denial of his paternity, for vituperation against Goldie's character, and sneers against the little creature whose black eyes blinked at him from a fuzzy drooping head But his words, too, stuck in his throat How vituperate against a girl, thin, unrouged and shabby, who had asked nothing from him? How argue with a visible miniature of himself, sleepily blowing bubbles in his face? Indeed, how associate guilt or intrigue with anything so inconceivably innocent?

Speechless they looked upon little Jakie, silenced by an emergency which no grasshopper jumpings, nor saxophone chromatics had trained them to meet "Is it sick—or something?" Jake finally ventured Goldie's eyes filled "Yes, he is He can't keep what he eats Something's wrong with him" "Can't you leave it at a hospital—in a basket—you know," he asked, as his feeble contribution to Jakie's well-being "I've tried it, but I can't He lays his little head on my shoulder, as if he was trying not to make trouble, and I can't leave him no more than I can jump in the lake I've tried that too" Jake reached in his pocket and shoved some small change into her hand—"I'll be round again," he called back as he turned abruptly and ran down the street

Goldie got a place in another less exacting kitchen and Jake called fairly often when his business permitted He never asked for the baby, but his black eyes roved about to find him as soon as he entered the kitchen, and Goldie, thinner and more forlorn, would bring him in, and sit with his tiny black thatch, drooping even more weakly against her shoulder "He don't even cry much any more It looks like he was saying, 'I thought I was wanted, so I come Why wouldn't I?' Then I found I wasn't wanted, so I started to go Now you change your mind and want me to stay But it's too late I can't make the grade" His little

(Continued on page 331)

## Friends on the Street

By KITTY MARION

Most gratifying and encouraging is the welcome given me by my friends on the street, the friends of Birth Control, on my resumption of selling the REVIEW after three months vacation. It is especially encouraging to find strangers who have previously passed me by, apparently unconscious of my existence, expressing their pleasure at seeing me "back on the job." They had missed me and the REVIEW and are glad of the renewed opportunity of buying the REVIEW and learning that Birth Control means quality rather than quantity in the human race, that it means giving contraceptive instruction to all married people, especially the disease-stricken and paupers who are now merely producing useless burdens to the community, that it means giving all parents the right and opportunity to limit their family according to their health and the size of their income.

Many confess that they were ashamed to speak to me before, but have at last plucked up courage to do so. My sale of 1,000 copies in four weeks speaks louder than words, and proves that people are awakening more and more to the realization that Birth Control is the only Ark that will preserve humanity from the deluge of the superfluous, unwanted and unfit.

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### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

*G Hardy is the pseudonym of a French writer on population problems, who is one of the pioneer Neo-Malthusians of France*

*Miriam Van Waters is referee of the Juvenile Court of Los Angeles and author of "Youth in Conflict"*

*N S Phadke, a former professor in Hyslop College, is founder of the Bombay Birth Control League (India)*

*Guy Irving Burch is a journalist of New York*

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### A CORRECTION

A sincere apology is due for the misspelling of Miss Amy Juengling's name in our October number.

"I hear that Jones left everything he had to an orphan asylum"

"Is that so? What did he leave?"

"Twelve children"

—Patton's Monthly

### GOODWIVES TALK

IN the cottage that was nearest the thicket, the door was wide open and John could hear the sounds of a woman cleaning her house. He shifted his position so that he could see the open door and also could look down the road which lay in front of the cottages. Two small boys passed, who, he hoped, would not see him, then a woman came down the road. She stopped at the open door and looked in.

"Good morning, Mrs. Leeth, I'm sorry to hear that you've had more trouble."

"Yes, indeed, Mrs. Tracey. My life's been full of trouble, eight children in nine years and only three of them left now this one's been took."

The voices became lower and muffled and John supposed that the two women had gone into the house. After an interval they came to the door again and he heard Mrs. Leeth complaining: "There's not been much going out for me since I was married. He never does a hand's turn to help me with the home, he's all for outside, he is—people don't know what I've had to put up with—never even wash up the breakfast things, he won't, not when I had to take the poor baby to hospital and be there by nine, and when I got back past twelve and the children wantin' their dinner I got to wash up, he grumblin' 'cause his dinner wasn't ready. Then the next day when they sent round to say the baby was dead, he didn't say nothing. He don't care." The voice now became less accusing though more charged with indignation, with tears not far distant.

Here was a misery worn hard with sordid outrage. Life was cruel and unrelenting as he too had felt it, but more sordid than he had imagined. Was it courage or mere stupidity that made poor human animals endure to live yet other years of suffering? Here was the great mainland of human suffering upon which he too had trodden. He knew with a sure conviction that Mrs. Leeth was no exception. She was one of hundreds and hundreds of thousands. Mrs. Leeth in the squalor of her affliction symbolized the sordid suffering of all humanity. He was possessed by terror at the vast indifference of mankind towards crimes perpetrated against the spirit of life—"The Mainland," by E. I. GRANT WATSON, (Alfred Knopf, New York)

It is suggested that the doctors should advise us as to our vocations. Berth Control, now, eh?—*The Star* (London)

# Habitable Places of the Earth

A Review by GUY IRVING BURCH

CLIMATE AND CIVILIZATION, by Ellsworth Huntington Third edition, revised and enlarged New Haven, Yale University Press

THE CHARACTER OF RACES, by Ellsworth Huntington As influenced by physical environment, natural selection and historical development New York, Scribner

PROFESSOR HUNTINGTON recognizes three main factors which he claims determine the distribution of civilization climate, racial inheritance and cultural development

Critics would have us believe that Professor Huntington forgets all about inheritance and cultural development and attributes the distribution of civilization entirely to climate This is not the case as both the third edition of *Climate and Civilization* and *The Character of Races* bear witness The worshipper of mere quantity of population revolts at the idea that only a relatively small portion of the earth's surface at the present time is capable of producing and sustaining a high type of civilization The person who thinks that land space is something merely to be densely populated—and the sooner the better, it seems—is likely to have an unconscious antipathy to Professor Huntington's books Professor Huntington believes that the climate of a country should be conquered before that country is allowed to become densely populated, and consequently he may not be popular with the "booster" and "boomer," who in time prepare the way for the bomber Professor Huntington is optimistic and progressive, but he believes that migrations should be guided by scientific knowledge rather than uncritical optimism

Professor Huntington's mind is open to everything new and interesting He likes things that make him think He has an imagination and plenty of enthusiasm He has traveled in all parts of the world, and even his critics are forced to admit that his books are most interesting But just as there was a deep-rooted superstitious prejudice against anyone who dared attempt to change "God's time," there is, I think, a deeper-rooted prejudice against anyone who dares investigate "God's climate" Climate like sex is something mysterious and must not be investigated

Professor Huntington's thoughts might have been far from Birth Control when he began the first edition of *Climate and Civilization*, but both the third edition of this

book and *The Character of Races* are filled with most valuable evidence for Birth Control For instance, the author of these books gives abundant evidence to prove that only about one-twentieth of the earth's land surface is capable of producing and sustaining a high type of civilization We shall not quibble about the term "civilization" If Professor Huntington is correct (and this, it seems, his critics will not admit, no matter how much evidence is produced) about three-fourths of the entire population of the world, or about 1,200,000,000 persons are to-day living in unfavorable climates In other words, if we believe that every man should be created free and equal, and demand equality of opportunity for all, the world today is about three-fourths over-populated, to say nothing of the misery caused by overpopulation in climates that are favorable

The evidence which Professor Huntington provides for his conclusions is based upon history, geography, anthropology and kindred sciences, and much of it is drawn from personal observation and investigation

IN THE following, I have tried to keep to the exact words of the author In doing this I have quoted mostly results and conclusions, and it must be remembered that the great mass of material from which the results and conclusions are drawn has necessarily been omitted I have not done even relative justice to *Climate and Civilization*, although this most interesting work has been revised and enlarged during the last ten years, the nature of the work has evolved, not changed

"In the first place," says Professor Huntington, concerning the evolution of the pulsatory hypothesis in his mind, "a prolonged study of past and present climatic variations led to the conclusion that the climate of the past was different from that of the present time (p 5) Throughout the dry regions of Central Asia and the eastern Mediterranean the evidences of moist and dry conditions, respectively, are grouped in distinct periods, the beginning of the Christian era was moist, for example, and the seventh century dry This led to what I called the 'pulsatory hypothesis,' which furnished a name for *The Pulse of Asia* According to this hypothesis, although the historic and prehistoric past in those particular regions was in general moister than the present, the change from moist to dry has taken place irregularly in great waves (p 7-8) A large part of the reasoning of this book stands or falls with the hypothesis of climatic pulsation in historic times" (p 7)

Throughout *Climate and Civilization* the author warns against extremes and monotony of climate Not only, it

seems, are the arctics and tropics unable to produce a high type of civilization today, but they are detrimental to the health of civilized persons who migrate to such places, and may endanger civilization itself if in one way or another it become dependent upon the arctics and the tropics. Furthermore, says Professor Huntington, "The climate of many countries seems to be one of the great reasons why idleness, dishonesty, immorality, stupidity and weakness of will prevail" (p 411)

Professor Huntington in speaking of the parts of the world that are capable of producing a high type of civilization, says "Altogether these five regions comprise less than one-twentieth of the land. Though they are densely populated because of the skill of their people in agriculture and manufacture, they obtain only about one-fourth of the world's population" (p 352)

"Contrary to the common belief, most parts of the world normally contain practically as large a population as they are capable of holding under the social and economic conditions which happen to prevail at any given time or place" (p 25)

IN THE preface to *The Character of Races* the author says "After reasonable allowance had been made for all these factors (climate, migrations of peoples and cultures, racial mixture, inventions and discoveries such as iron tools and agriculture, and ideas such as religion), I felt that highly significant features of the distribution of human progress remained unexplained. After years of search I believe that at least a partial explanation is found in natural selection arising most frequently under the stress of overpopulation and migration" (vii)

Three fundamental causes why "every selected race seems to degenerate," says Professor Huntington, have been "poor climate into which the immigrants have penetrated, active selection ceasing to be effective" and "the restriction of the birth rate which almost invariably becomes active among the upper classes when overpopulation begins to create a condition of economic stress" (p 18-19)

The chapters concerning China in *The Character of Races* should be of special interest to the advocate of Birth Control. In these chapters we have over two thousand years of history of a great people in a great continent who continually multiplied their numbers faster than the nourishment prepared for their subsistence. If the principle of population must be proved again and again, these chapters on China will be of assistance.

"Proper selection, free opportunity and freedom from the depressing effect of overpopulation seem to be all that is needed to build up even in these (famine) regions a Chinese race of high quality" (p 202)

We must not imagine that overpopulation is peculiar to China and India alone. Being two of the oldest civiliza-

tions, they have perhaps suffered more than European civilization. Europe's record is shorter than that of Asia, but it is just as bloody. Nor has Europe been free from famine and pestilence, during the Middle Ages the plagues took over one-fourth of the entire population of Europe, and Europe is not free of famine to this very day. America is still young, but her campaigns of boosters and boomers to get more people to break more land to feed more people will soon have the remaining open spaces overpopulated. When America's open spaces are filled as Europe's open spaces were filled, the cry will be as before the war we must have more land to feed our people, then after the war we must have more man-power for the next war.

After speaking of the pressure of population in Greece, Sicily, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, the Norse countries and others, Professor Huntington turns his attention to America. He speaks of the rigid selection of the early immigrants in America. "In those days," says Professor Huntington, "in a general way, all men in New England were 'free and equal'." Class distinctions were not abolished in America because some one introduced a new idea. As evidence to prove that the quality of the population is changing in America, the author gives facts concerning the falling birth rate among the cultured classes, the degenerating results of war and peace, religion and philanthropy. He says that America is suffering from harmful selection, and speaks of the rapid increase of the unselected classes. "unselected immigration has already brought the United States to the point where overpopulation and radical lowering of the standard of living seem to be imminent" (p 213-14)

"Mere numbers," says Professor Huntington, "count for nothing in many cases a dense population is the greatest of curses, as it has been in Ireland, China, Japan and Germany" (p 362)

## BOOKS RECEIVED

From Dorrance & Co., (Philadelphia) PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OR SOCIALISM, by Scoville Hamlin

From U S Department of Labor, Children's Bureau (Washington, D C) JUVENILE COURTS AT WORK, by Katharine F Lenroot and Emma O Lundberg. Bureau Publication No 141

From the Society for Public Health Education (New York) HEALTH VIA NATURE, by Harry Finkel, M D

From Friend's Bookshop (London) MARRIAGE AND PARENTHOOD, DISCUSSED BY A GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS 7½d

## A SOURCE BOOK ON BIRTH CONTROL

Birth Control, Facts and Responsibilities, a Symposium Edited by Adolf Meyer, M D Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore

This volume makes accessible to the public the most outstanding of the papers read at the Chicago and Baltimore conferences on Birth Control. It should be invaluable as a source book to the speaker and student, including as it does articles on population, health and the social aspects of the subject by Professors East, Pearl, Ross, Miller and Spaeth, Mrs Wembridge and Dr Chapman, on the Need of Birth Control in America, by Margaret Sanger, on Procreative Hygiene, by Adolf Meyer, on the ethical aspect of the subject, by Rabbi Rubenstein and the eugenic aspect by Professors Cole and Little

## A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

MRS DORA MARGOWSKI, thirty-six, has had everything out of life except happiness. She has had sixteen children. Her husband has been in Central America four years. She has returned to the pitiful few rooms she calls home to find a fire raging, from a cause later analyzed as being one of the children hugging the baby of the day, who was ill, and thereby upsetting something on the stove.

She has known death stalking among her little brood and taking the flesh of her flesh and the bone of her bone. She has tried to struggle along on \$8 a week—and admits it has been hard.

Yesterday she appeared before Magistrate Alexander Brough to answer a charge of failing to send a daughter, Leah, fifteen, to school, as required by the law, which is the only one of the visitations of the poor she had hitherto been spared.

"Leah has a weak heart and could have heart trouble at any time," she told the Magistrate simply.

"When they were all home I often bought eighteen loaves of bread a day and that made all we had to eat," she said.

"My children have helped when they could. Most of the boys had to go to school, even when they had good jobs.

"Hebrew societies have five of my children—four girls and a boy. I see them every week, but—well, I suppose I should be happy."—*New York World*

*He who marries and has children, has given hostages to fortune*

*The immortality of brutes is in their progeny, of men, in their fame, services and institutions*

*Regard for the family too often over-rides regard for the state*

—FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626)

## WOMEN WHO TOIL

Written from Life by CUNNINGHAM MORRIS

YES, I must toil at the wash tub  
Though my strength is almost spent,  
If I did not keep on rubbing  
I could never pay the rent  
Did you ask me where is my husband?  
Doctor said he had T B  
So it's off to the sanitarium  
Leaving the young ones and me

Did you ask me how many have I?  
Well ma'am, just now I have five  
Another will be added soon  
I doubt if 'twill be alive  
To tell the truth I hope it's dead,  
Better for it and for me  
Better for the other young ones,  
I'm sure you will agree

You ask are the young ones healthy?  
Now, how could they ever be  
Without proper food or clothing  
And a father with T B?  
Do I believe in Birth Control?  
Excuse me, ma'am, but indeed  
I'm always so very busy,  
I never have time to read

Why surely I'll take the book, ma'am  
Why, really? You do not say!  
T'would indeed have been a blessing  
Had it sooner come my way  
I'll lend it to many others  
For, ma'am, you could never guess  
How women dread bearing children  
To poverty and distress

"Legal Birth Control" is, according to the New Orleans *Picayune* (September 25), a phrase adopted by the Credit Men's Association to express the "need of putting a check on the number, and improving the quality of the laws born onto our nation, to her daughters, the several states and to her daughter's daughters, the municipalities." "Less children and finer ones," is the aim of the Credit Men, who are debating the means of preventing further ill-advised parturition in our legislatures.

A social worker writes "Social workers in general are, I believe, in favor of Birth Control, but like other groups they need to develop their courage."

"Malthus has always been a favorite butt for the ridicule of shallow thinkers"—ALFRED MARSHALL

## OUR CORRESPONDENTS' COLUMN

## A CORRECTION

September 30, 1925

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In your September issue you have inserted as a note from me an extract from a personal letter to Mrs Sanger in which I mentioned the opening of two new clinics—one in Wolverhampton and one in Abertillery, Wales—by our original society I now understand that the Abertillery Clinic was founded by the Abertillery Hospital after consultation with Dr Marie Stopes and that the nurse in charge was trained at her clinic I deeply regret the misapprehension which led me to make the statement The two clinics recently established with the assistance of the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics (which was formed by the Committee of the Walworth Clinic after it became independent of the Malthusian League) are at Wolverhampton and Cambridge

Apart from this, I feel sure that my note must have been misread in some way, probably due to my hurried writing, as the quotation appears to institute a contrast between the progress of Dr Stopes's Society and that of the Malthusian League, which I have always been most anxious to avoid There is plenty of work to be done by any number of societies, and the good of the cause is far above personalities or rivalries My only wish is to see it flourish, and that all who contribute to its progress should have the fullest recognition of their efforts

Yours faithfully,

C V DRYSDALE

## A PROTEST

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I wish to protest Mrs Annie G Porritt's review (December, 1924) of my book "Out of the Valley of the Forgotten" Written from a prejudiced standpoint, it does not give the reader a just idea of the real book, the reviewer's reader would picture an altogether different book, spirit and author

The actual book contains many pages of thorough analysis of problems of life and of science With the conclusions drawn therefrom the reviewer has the right to disagree, but not to ignore the entire discussion and give the impression that the book consists of dogmatic statements, as she has done

If she will read carefully in an unprejudiced spirit she will not be able to repeat her sweeping statements

There are practically only two classes of statements without proof in the book, one covering well established scientific facts at the present time not demanding proof, cited to show the reader their implications, the second containing conclusions whose pros and cons are definitely

reserved by the author for a yet unpublished third volume Elsewhere he has carefully analyzed problems, examined the implications of the result to see how they support his conclusions, referred to the rock bottom of established facts of nature and sound logic, sifted the worth of possible objections, etc

A reviewer in a Minneapolis paper in fact made the remark that whether or not the reader of the book would agree with the author, it was impossible to deny his close and accurate reasoning and would be difficult successfully to controvert his propositions

Apparently because the author has laid his finger on a sore spot with many people (even those believing in Birth Control), namely, the need for a radical change to an honestly appreciative non-ascetic attitude toward intimate sexualibus, the reviewer cannot view the book except "through jaundiced eyes"

Mrs Porritt rashly concludes because the author believes the right to give preventceptive information should not be limited to physicians he does not realize the necessity for medical advice in many cases

Regarding emphasis, permit the author to remind the reviewer that emphasis does not mean dogmatism—italics and bold face type were used merely for emphasis Also the author has not endeavored to coin more than perhaps three or four new words in his book, Mrs Porritt perhaps considers words in established usage like sexualibus and preventception new words

Very truly yours,

JOHN E BAUMAN

The reviewer, to whom Mr Bauman's letter has been submitted, has nothing to add to what has already been written To meet the statements in the letter would take more space than the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW can afford to give to these volumes

ANNIE G PORRITT

## BEFORE BIRTH CONTROL

The following epitaph is to be seen at Monk's Kirby, near Rugby "In memory of Eliz Mott, wife of John Mott, who died October 24, 1726 Married 44 years, and the mother of 42 children A loving wife, a tender mother, Scarce left behind her such another"

In Conway Churchyard is this one "Here lyeth ye body of Nichs Hookes, of Conway, Gent, who was ye 41st child of his father, Wm Hookes, Esq, by Alice, his wife, and ye father of 27 children, who dyed ye 20th day of March, 1637"—*Morning Post* (London)

"Not propagating the race but raising the level of humanity must be the aim of existence"—NIETZSCHE

## PERIODICAL NOTES

In the *Saturday Evening Post* (Philadelphia) of September 26th, Richard Washburn Child discusses "Our Great American Scandal"—crime and its treatment. He describes a typical criminal, whom he calls Ed X, as the "product of a broken home," poverty stricken and overcrowded and as a consequence quarrelsome and without joy for children or parents. The coming of the last baby put an end to Ed X's home. "It was always ailing," says Ed, "and its coming so destroyed the mother's health that she died when it was eighteen months old."

In the magazine section of the *Tribune-Herald* (N. Y.) for September 6th, Dr. Arthur Selwyn Brown has a page headed "Is Mother Earth Confronted by Too Many Mouths to Feed?" It is another contribution in popular form to the rapidly growing body of scientific literature showing that not at some distant future but today we are "in sight of the time when population increases threaten the means of subsistence." Of the result of neglect of the warnings we already have Dr. Brown says: "Biological studies show that in cases of animals and plants crowding of a population reduces fecundity, virility and independence and these result in reduced national efforts in production and distribution." So the race traverses the circle until it dies of inanition.

In "When the World Will Starve" (October *World's Work*, N. Y.) Vilhjalmur Stefanson, arctic explorer, discusses the present sources of our food supply and those improvements and expansions already recognized as possible by which our resources can be added to in the future. Taking those usually recognized into account, he concludes that if population continues at the present rate of increase the "Great Hunger" is not due till about the year 2050. Adding to these the possible exploitation of the vegetable and animal resources of Greenland and other subarctic regions, but leaving population unchecked, he estimates that the hunger may be deferred another thirty years or so. But Arctic cultivation is, like all plans to develop portions of the earth now considered worthless, a mere stopgap. Some other solution of the problem of overcrowding must be found. It is, Mr. Stefanson believes, already found and it is a three-sided choice—war, pestilence or Birth Control.

The *Eugenics Review* (London) for July, has a study of primitive marriage by E. N. Fallaize, as well as an able article on Modern Marriage and Monogamy by Mrs. Sybil Neville-Rolfe, general secretary of the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease (London). Mrs. Neville-Rolfe's analysis of present-day tendencies is especially interesting.

*School and Society* in a recent number publishes a study of delinquency by E. O. Sisson of Reed College, Oregon. Dr. Sisson finds that 60 to 80 per cent of delinquency among children is due to "broken homes" and one main group of children under this head are born in families where one or both parents are vicious or criminal or seriously defective. The second cause is physical or mental deformity and the third the slum, poverty. Behind all these he finds heredity—the predisposing cause.

Jessie Taft's article on Sex in Children in the October *World Tomorrow* (New York), is highly suggestive of the article by Sigmund Freud, a long extract from which we use this month. Like him, Miss Taft blames parents for not recognizing that sex has its beginning in childhood. "The real title of this paper," says she, "should be Sex in Parents, for therein lie the causes of sex as a problem in children—the lack of sex-adjustment and understanding in grown-ups." Miss Taft is however, hopeful of the attitude of the next generation of parents, for she believes the oncoming generation to be "freer and more comfortable about sex than we have ever been." The whole article is excellent.

The debate on Catholicism is still going on in the *Forum* (New York). Kate Sargent's article on the Catholic domination of Massachusetts in the October number has a special interest in view of the embargo put by Mayor Curley on free speech in excluding speakers on Birth Control from Boston.

A study of "folk ways" is Ruth Reed's article in the *Journal of Social Hygiene* (New York), on "Illegitimacy Among Negroes." It has long been a matter of observation that negro married women have a degree of economic independence not enjoyed by poor white women. One reason for this may be the looseness of the marriage bond. Miss Reed finds among negroes an illegitimacy rate of 122.7 per 1,000 as against 14.2 per thousand among whites. She finds also that 32.5 per cent—one-third—of married negro women are employed as compared to 9 per cent—less than one-tenth—of white married women. Miss Reed ascribes this condition in part to habits formed in slave times when slaves were often bred with the same disregard of family life as domestic animals and when a woman's work was performed only incidentally for her family, her regular labor being her master's.

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And now it appears that there are fewer molecules than the scientists have thought. Relief at last for the housing problem—*New York World*.

## News Notes

### UNITED STATES

#### New York

**T**HE work of circularizing candidates for Congress on the proposed amendment to the United States Postal Law is progressing. The letter sent out by the American Birth Control League to a list of 60,000 interested persons has met with an encouraging response. But the league's membership is made up largely of poor people, in many cases very poor mothers who can contribute little besides heartfelt good wishes. These have sent the names of their Congressmen and many have sent also, financial contributions almost beyond their means. But more money is needed. Enthusiasm carries us a long way, but enthusiasm backed by financial support will carry us much farther.

The bill which will be presented is an amendment to Section 211 of the Postal Law. It reads:

Standard medical and scientific journals and reprints therefrom and standard medical works and reprints therefrom which contain information with reference to the preventing of conception are not non-mailable under this section.

#### PROVIDED FURTHER THAT

1 Any article, instrument, substance, drug, or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception, or any written or printed information or advice concerning the prevention of conception is not non-mailable under this section when mailed by a duly licensed physician to

- a Another person known to him to be a duly licensed physician,
- b One of his bonafide patients in the course of his professional practice,
- c A bonafide printer or publisher or by such printer or publisher to a duly licensed physician

2 Any article, instrument, substance, drug or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception is not non-mailable under this section when mailed in the regular course of legitimate business by

- a An importer to a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in drugs, or by a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in drugs to an importer,
- b A manufacturer to a wholesale dealer in drugs or by such wholesale dealer to a manufacturer,
- c A wholesale dealer in drugs to another such wholesale dealer or a retail dealer in drugs, or by such retail dealer to such wholesale dealer,

- d A retail dealer in drugs to a duly licensed physician or to another person upon the written prescription of a duly licensed physician, or by such physician or person to such retail dealer

**A**S fall comes on the league is receiving applications for speakers from social agencies in greater numbers than ever before. When Dr. Cooper returned from Europe early in October he found invitations for October and November awaiting him from between forty and fifty medical bodies in 14 states. As he is in the field the story of these meetings cannot be given till next month.

Among the meetings addressed by speakers in New York City are The Mothers Club of Central Presbyterian Church, West 52nd Street, which was addressed by Mrs. Robertson Jones on October 13th, The Mothers Club of the Emanuel Sisterhood of Personal Service, East 82nd Street, where Mrs. Fannie H. Sanford spoke on October 14th, Greenwich House, Educational Alliance, Stuyvesant Neighborhood House, Madison House Society, and the School Settlements Association.

The Yorkville (N. Y. C.) Medical Society held a symposium on contraception at its evening meeting on October 19th. The speakers were Drs. S. Adolphus Knopf, Robert L. Dickinson, A. A. Brill, Max Hulmer and Hannah M. Stone.

While the newspapers report that the Japanese government is alarmed by the spread of Birth Control propaganda, representatives of the public educational system of that country, evidently unruffled by reports of police activities, have recently called at headquarters of the League, commissioned to gather full information as to the arguments for Birth Control and the technique of contraception. In the delegation were Messrs. Ichiro Suke Aratara, Heiji Oikawa, Akashi and O. Kanamura.

Three faithful friends of Birth Control from England were in New York and other states of the eastern coast in October. They are Lord Dawson and Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, who came to attend the Clinical Congress of the College of Surgeons, which was held at Philadelphia October 26th, and Dean Inge of St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

#### NATIONAL

**BIRTH CONTROL** was included in a resolution on family life by a committee of the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in session at New Orleans during the third week in October. The resolution deplores the teaching of "birth restriction," but declines to "lay down rules that will meet the needs of every abnormal case."



**Iowa**

AMONG the national organizations represented, by invitation, in the Exhibit Hall at the Iowa Conference on Social Work, held at Iowa City, (October 20-23) was the American Birth Control League

**Massachusetts**

TWICE in the last six months there have emanated from some source in Boston stories to the effect that Margaret Sanger failed to appear at scheduled meetings. The first of these, which was sent throughout the country early in the summer had no foundation whatever in fact. Mayor Curley had at that time successfully intimidated owners of lecture halls, so that many months work was needed before the local branch of the American Civil Liberties Union could find a platform on which Mrs. Sanger would be allowed to speak. Late in the summer Faneuil Hall was obtained and September 17th set as a tentative date. This was found to conflict with Mrs. Sanger's other engagements and the refusal of the hall was cancelled in ample time, but no notice of the cancellation was given, apparently, in the press. A handful of people appeared at the hall on September 17th and the *Boston Herald* carried a story of the mistake as a "failure to appear." Meanwhile preparations are under way and Mrs. Sanger will speak in Boston some time in the fall or early winter. Whatever the result of the November elections she will speak before Mayor Curley's administration goes out of office.

**New Jersey**

ON Monday, September 14th, Elizabeth Grew addressed the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society of New Brunswick on "The Real Task Before Benevolent Societies." Mr. Meves spoke during October before the North Hudson Exchange Club, a Laurel Springs Unit of the Woman's Republican Club, Passaic, Orange-West Orange, Caldwell, West Essex and Clifton, Kiwanis.

On October 14th Dr. Hannah M. Stone, Clinical Director of the Research Department of the American Birth Control League, spoke on Contraceptive Technique before the Burlington County Medical Society. There was an extensive and interesting discussion after her talk.

**Pennsylvania**

THE Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of the American Birth Control League met with Mrs. Kennedy, executive Secretary of the League on October 8th,

to discuss winter plans. It was decided to appoint a committee to look into the possibilities of practical work, and to circularize all physicians of Philadelphia and vicinity, to acquaint them with the work of the league and to send them copies of Dr. William Allen Pusey's address before the Sixth International Conference.

**GREAT BRITAIN**

AS this is the most important practical aspect of Birth Control in England, we publish in full the statement of the Workers' Birth Control group on the present status of Birth Control with the Ministry of Health, as follows:

"At least 70 members of the present Parliament are pledged to support Birth Control. At the end of July a deputation composed of some of these M.P.'s saw Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Minister of Health, and asked him to lift the ban on the public health doctors by permitting them to give Birth Control information in the following cases:

- (a) When the father is insane or feeble-minded,
- (b) When the mother will probably die in confinement,
- (c) When either parent is affected with venereal disease.

"In response, the Minister went so far as to give a virtual pledge that he would so amend the existing regulations as to allow the doctors not to give the information themselves, but to direct the mother to a reliable clinic or person to obtain it.

"But on August 4th and 5th the Minister was seen by other members of Parliament acting largely under reactionary influence. This opposition objected even to the mild proposal made by the Minister, although it met their contention that no public money should be used in giving information. On August 6th, in reply to a question by Mr. Ernest Thurtle, M.P., Mr. Chamberlain went back on his previous attitude.

"The declared policy of our State is thus to foster the secret spread of harmful information and harmful practices which are the inevitable alternatives to the intelligent guidance of mothers by adequately informed doctors.

"It is for men and women with votes to decide whether they can vote for any candidate for Parliament or any sitting member who will not pledge himself or herself to change this policy. Mothers! let us bombard our M.P.'s with questions and personal deputations. Most politicians will not, I am afraid, lift a finger to help forward this much-needed reform until it is plain to them that neglect of it will lose them their seats in Parliament."

News of the Movement in England each month is interesting not only for the three vigorous organizations which are bringing pressure to bear in one way or another on the Ministry of Health and are demonstrating the practical demand for contraceptive advice by the work of a dozen clinics. It is interesting and encouraging also for the splendid supplementary work of those scientists who keep it before the public and of such organizations as the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship which, having added Birth Control to its program, now loses no opportunity of pushing it. At the summer school of the Union in September the subject was presented by Professor Carr-Saunders and Dr. Marie Stopes.

John Maynard Keynes in a widely quoted address ("Am I a Liberal?") has included sex questions as one of five groups of subjects to which political parties ought to give serious attention. At least the women in his party have taken his suggestion seriously, for Birth Control was the subject of earnest discussion by the Women's National Liberal Federation at its meeting at Torquay.

THE Labor Party in Conference assembled at Liverpool at the end of September failed on a rather close vote (1,824,000 to 1,530,000) to pass the resolution introduced by Brighton and Hove Branch providing for contraceptive instruction at welfare centres. We hope to have the full story in a later issue.

The Roman Catholics have succeeded in bringing the statements on Birth Control of Judge Cluer of Shoreditch Court to the attention of many who might not have heard them if they had left the Judge alone. His letter in reply to a written protest by a Roman Catholic organization against his practical propaganda in court has been quoted far and wide in the English papers. It is terse and to the point and reads: "The approval or disapproval of your Roman Catholic League is a matter of indifference to your obedient servant."

—A. K. CLUER

Other opponents besides the Catholics have done good service recently. One such is Sir John Robertson, Health Officer for Birmingham who has raised many defenders not only from within Birth Control organizations but from the general public by his statement that knowledge of Birth Control and of venereal disease prophylaxis have increased immorality. His critics ask whether he would favor return to the old neglect of medical measures in venereal disease, and one of them, Dr. Hall-Ed-

wards of Birmingham, puts the blame where it belongs when he accuses bad conditions due to too large families in too small space of the responsibility for immorality.

Quarterly figures for population growth in England have again been published. They show for the second as compared with the first quarter of 1925 a slight gain, the rate for the first quarter being 18 1/3 per 1,000 as against 19 1/3.

It is encouraging to know that "the children born were increasingly healthy. The infant mortality was well below the average for the past ten years and was equal to the lowest rate ever recorded since the establishment of civil registration."

## A COMING EVENT

THE annual public meeting under the auspices of the American Birth Control League will be a luncheon at the Hotel Roosevelt. Reservations may be made through the Executive Secretary of the League at 104 Fifth Avenue.

### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of The Birth Control Review published monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1925. State of New York, County of New York.

Before me a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid personally appeared Margaret Sanger who having been duly sworn according to law deposes and says that she is the Editor-in-Chief of The Birth Control Review and that the following is to the best of her knowledge and belief a true statement of the ownership, management, etc. of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24, 1912 embodied in section 443 Postal Laws and Regulations printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:

Publisher—American Birth Control League, Inc. 104 Fifth Ave. N. Y. City  
Editor—Margaret Sanger, 104 Fifth Ave. N. Y. City  
Managing Editor—Mary Sumner Boyd, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City  
Business Managers—None

2. That the owner is: (If the publication is owned by an individual his name and address or if owned by more than one individual the name and address of each, should be given below; if the publication is owned by a corporation the name of the corporation and the names and addresses of the stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of the total amount of stock should be given.)

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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders and security holders if any contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation the name of the person or corporation, for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

MARGARET SANGER,

Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September, 1925

SADIE A. BASHO

[SEAL]

(My commission expires March 30, 1927)

## GOLDIE GRASSHOPPER

(Continued from page 321)

head just lays there," and Goldie would sob in exhaustion. Jake would sometimes protest roughly, "cut it out about that kid's head," and leave in what looked like irritation. It was true that Goldie was not very cheerful company, and made none of her old-time effort to amuse him. But in a few days Jake would be back again, and his roving eyes would search for the baby as before.

Finally his orchestra had to leave town for a fortnight to play in a carnival. When he returned to Goldie's kitchen she was not there. The mistress answered him somewhat suspiciously—"You her brother? Well, you're too late. She's gone and the baby's dead." "Dead," echoed Jake blankly. "Sure it's dead. Never could keep a thing on its stomach. I did all I could, but it had a bad start. I wonder it lived as long as it did. It laid its little head—," but Jake had turned and was running down the street.

A few weeks later, Goldie was back in the burlesque chorus. Garcie had married money was the rumor, and had left for New York. Goldie had been visiting her relatives, she explained. "And they sure did treat you rough, girly," commented the other girls. "You must have hit the pace pretty hard, by your looks. Good thing you came back for a rest cure."

It would be pleasant to report that all this had turned Goldie into a hard working little ant, and that she and Jake happily married, now take the little ants to picnics by the lake in a partly-paid-for-Ford—like millions of others, who only differ from them in that they had a slightly better start. But so far, such is not the case. Goldie is still a grasshopper and hops better than she will ever cook, sew or mop. Jake looks like a cricket, still sleek and shiny. But his mother and grandmother are good for thirty years more consumption of his earnings, so he is doomed to be an ant in an ant-hill not his own.

The net result of Jakie's coming and departure is, that Goldie drops her spare nickels into the box in the drugstore (with a baby's picture on it) that collects small cash for some dubious charity. She has watched one baby die of slow starvation and these nickels help to drug the memory. And Jake buys his newspaper of a little black-eyed newsboy whom he addresses as Son. "The kid looks like I did," he explains. That's about all. Goldie still has a pretty good line and amuses her rather grimy audience, although the management sometimes finds fault. "You sang something terrible last

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night, Goldie "*Your head lay on my shoulder, but its weight lies on my heart,*" is a swell song. No comedy. It's the real stuff, but you murdered it. You made Jake's wind break on his sax and he never done that before. He covered it up pretty well, but you didn't. You got worse and worse."

Goldie hopes to try the New York variety shows next, and Jake secretly plans to pipe his lay in new fields and leave his relatives to the charities. What are they for if not for that? Which all goes to show that if one wants citizens who ply the industry of the ant in the steadfast rays of righteousness, a poor way to get them is to train up little grasshoppers, who know no fervors but the volcanoes of their own instincts, into whose dead craters they fall, dry and shrivelled husks, before they are twenty-one.

### THE UNWANTED CHILD COMES BEFORE THE COURT

(Continued from page 313)

"For example, consider a girl in a family with a number of other sisters, an older sister may throughout this individual's memory have received more attention, more thoughtful care, more opportunities for social adulation, more attractive clothes, and more recreational outlets, while younger sisters, because they may serve father and mother as outlets for instinctive parental cravings, may be objects of envy. Soon we may have such a girl thinking that she is not as desirable as her sisters. She

may develop a "grudge attitude" and feel that in her experience outside the home an opportunity is presented to obtain compensation for the things which the home fails to supply. It is just in such cases that we do find, at times, girls entering into lives of sex promiscuity in a definite attempt to find some means of compensation for the imagined unjust situation in the home."

Such cases appear in hundreds before the city Juvenile Courts. Girls of twelve, thirteen and fourteen, the misfits in large families, the eager, young adolescent girls, unwanted and unprovided, for seek transitory comfort in numerous chance "love affairs." Their parents have no plans for them. In the scheme of family formation they have no adequate place. Unwanted children are always potential delinquents.

Haphazard methods of family formation that result in the birth of unplanned for, unwelcome children produce a large proportion of the stream of delinquent boys and girls that pass through our courts and correctional institutions.

In the individual delinquent who commits the graver offenses of personal assault, serious property damage, theft and the like, one often finds a basic feeling of antagonism to authority, and a profound distrust of it. The family background of such offenders is nearly always tense with hatred or mutual suspicion, or fear. The parents are maladjusted. The children feel inferior, or superfluous. When they are old enough they adopt any means of defense, any way of "putting themselves across in the community."

Surely the modern, scientific Birth Control movement has something to say to these unhappy parents. Doubtless the problem is more complex, but it is evident that the unwanted child is at the root of many broken homes.

There is another aspect of Birth Control which concerns the Juvenile Court, the widespread dissemination of dangerous, or worthless "information." Boys and girls today do not lack adult "counsellors", unscrupulous older women, drug store clerks, quacks of all sorts fill their minds with filth and recommend measures highly injurious, or useless. The medical profession is shouldering a great responsibility if it allows the field of family limitation to be occupied by professional seducers and sellers of patent medicine. Birth Control clinics under reputable medical leadership with nurses and social workers could do a great deal to destroy the flow of obscene and poisonous literature and conversation that comes from the "underworld." In the field of sex education there are probably more fallacies current among young people than in any other department of public health. If youth is to

gain wholesome knowledge the experts must themselves take the initiative and assume aggressive leadership and not wait until they are shoved, or led into the movement by the non-expert

No part of the Birth Control movement is of greater importance for the prevention of delinquency than its emphasis on durable, planned marriages, and thoughtful voluntary parenthood. The concept of family formation should be taught boys and girls in early childhood. That children come because they are desired, that children must be prepared for, that they require adequate space, shelter, nurture, love, discipline, education, medical attention, religious and social guidance, that as Douglas Thom† says, "being a parent is the biggest job on earth"—this enlarged view of family life would reduce delinquency and stop an appalling waste of childhood.

There is no panacea, no ready-made program for the control of delinquency, but the Birth Control movement, linked with an adequate sense of its deeper emotional and social values is a significant step in the right direction

## THE TRUTH ABOUT FRANCE

(Continued from page 310)

able, are given to large families. The French Academy awards about ten such dowries. One of these which emanates from a Parisian business man permits the awarding of 90 prizes of 25,000 francs each to poor families comprising at least 9 children, living or killed in the war, and from the one marriage.

M. Michelin, the great manufacturer of automobile tires, has instituted a competition with prizes amounting to 120,000 francs, for a pamphlet vaunting the benefits of a large population. Five hundred thousand of these pamphlets have been printed. Active societies, favored and subsidised by the State, multiply their efforts to prevent "dénatalité." Of these the principal is "The League for Increasing the French Population." The whole press, whether of the right or of the left, assists the government and follows its directions.

In July, 1920, a law was passed which punished by fine and imprisonment all anti-conceptional propaganda. Article 3 of this law menaces even "anyone who conducts a propaganda against the birth rate" with a fine of from 100 to 500 francs and from one month up to six months' imprisonment. This law, which violates the fundamental principle of the famous declaration of the Rights

† Leaflets for Parents. Published by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 370 Seventh Ave., New York City

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of Man, permits a complete denial of justice. No further propaganda is possible under these conditions. Some militant propagandists have been prosecuted, condemned, imprisoned and ruined. Among these our comrade Eugene Humbert, to whom I call your special attention, has been the principal victim.

It is scarcely necessary to add that the preventive or repressive action of the government has had no effect on French conduct. The birth rate has not increased since the application of the law, quite the contrary. Immediately after the return of the men from the war a high marriage rate ensued, and the birth rate in 1921 was 20.7, but it fell to 19.4 in 1922, and to about 18.6 in 1923 with a death rate of 16.9, giving a survival rate of about 1.7, or a total natural increase of population of 70,000. None of the French militant Neo-Malthusians are discouraged. They know the cause is won. It is only poverty which compels them to silence. As soon as the circumstances and the means to recommend their activities are available, they will not fail.

Already men of importance and of independent thought have risen against the Draconian measures established by the national bloc. In important works Dr. Beltrani, professor of the School of Medicine of Marseilles, Dr. Lascaux, and Dr. Gottschalk, have shown or suggested the futility or injuriousness of special laws concerning Birth Control propaganda.

But it is important that the workers of other countries should assist the task of the French propagandists. They can do so by redoubling the energy of their own efforts. It is important that the fundamental objection of the French nationalists should fall. This objection is that since the population of Germany, and of Italy, increase rapidly, France is thereby placed in a state of inferiority, especially from the military standpoint. When all the European countries have taken France as their model in this respect, our nationalists, so often mistaken, will use this argument in calling for births.

A Congress such as the present should be the precursor of an entente and of an international action towards obtaining complete liberty of Neo-Malthusian propaganda in all countries. The day when throughout the world the good sense and beneficial action of Neo-Malthusianism is recognized, will be the end of the social inferiority of womanhood, and of war and human misery.

A human race, composed principally of individuals desired and engendered by healthy parents, a race purified of all physical and mental degenerates, and in a stable equilibrium, will replace that of today—daughter of chance and ignorance.

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